

CLAIMS

1. A door latch assembly comprising:
 - a release lever movable about a release lever axis;
 - a lock lever moveable about a lock lever axis, wherein the release lever and the lock lever are movable between a latched unlocked position, a latched locked position, and an unlatched position; and
 - a resilient assembly connected between the release lever and the lock lever, the resilient assembly having
 - a first retainer having a first seat and a first load application feature,
 - a second retainer having a second seat and a second load application feature, wherein the first and second seats substantially face each other, and
 - a resilient member supported between the first and second seats and positioned between the first and second load application features, wherein the resilient member is biased to resist a tensile force applied to the first and second load application features that moves the first and second seat toward each other and to move the release lever relative to the lock lever when the lock lever and the release lever are in the unlatched position.
2. The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the resilient assembly acts in a non-resilient manner when the release lever and lock lever move from the latched unlocked position to the latched locked position.
3. The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the resilient assembly acts in a non-resilient manner when the release lever and lock lever move from the latched locked position to the latched unlocked position.
4. The door latch assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second retainers includes a recess that receives at least a portion of the resilient member.

5. The door latch assembly of claim 4, wherein the recess includes an additional seat, and wherein the resilient member is mounted between at least one of the first and second seat and the additional seat.

6. The door latch assembly of claim 5, wherein at least one of the first and second seat and the additional seat hold the resilient member in a preloaded position.

7. The door latch assembly of claim 6, wherein the first retainer has the first seat and a first additional seat and the second retainer has the second seat and a second additional seat.

8. The door latch assembly of claim 7, wherein the first and second seats and the first and second additional seats are arranged to allow lost motion between one of the first and second retainer and the resilient member.

9. The door latch assembly of claim 7, wherein the first and second seats and the first and second additional seats are arranged to preload the resilient means.

10. The door latch assembly of claim 7, further comprising a first projection that projects from the first seat of the first retainer and a second projection that projects from the first additional seat of the first retainer, wherein the resilient member is mounted on the first and second projections.

11. The door latch assembly of claim 10, wherein the second retainer further comprises a first projection projecting from the second seat and a second projection projecting from the second additional seat, and wherein the resilient member is mounted on the first and second projections of the first and second retainers, wherein at least one of the first and second projections of the first retainer overlaps with at least one of the first and second projections of the second retainer.

12. The door latch assembly of claim 11, wherein said at least one of the first and second projections of the first retainer overlaps with at least one of the first and second projections of the second retainer when the release lever and the lock lever are in the unlatched position.

13. A resilient assembly, comprising:
a first retainer having a first seat and a first load application feature;
a second retainer having a second seat and a second load application feature, wherein the first and second seats substantially face each other; and
a resilient member supported between the first and second seats and having at least a portion received by a recess in at least one of the first and second retainers, wherein the resilient member is positioned between the first and second load application features, and wherein the resilient member is biased to resist a tensile force applied to the first and second load application features that moves the first and second seat toward each other.
14. The resilient assembly of claim 13, wherein the recess includes an additional seat, and wherein the resilient member is mounted between at least one of the first and second seat and the additional seat.
15. The resilient assembly of claim 14, wherein at least one of the first and second seat and the additional seat hold the resilient member in a preloaded position.
16. The resilient assembly of claim 14, wherein the first retainer has the first seat and a first additional seat and the second retainer has the second seat and a second additional seat.
17. The resilient assembly of claim 16, wherein the first and second seats and the first and second additional seats are arranged to allow lost motion between one of the first and second retainer and the resilient member.
18. The resilient assembly of claim 16, wherein the first and second seats and the first and second additional seats are arranged to preload the resilient means.
19. The resilient assembly of claim 14, wherein the first retainer further comprises a first projection that projects from the first seat and a second projection that projects from

the additional seat, wherein the resilient member is mounted on the first and second projections.

20. The resilient assembly of claim 19, wherein the second retainer further comprises a first projection projecting from the second seat and a second projection projecting from the second additional seat, wherein the resilient member is mounted on the first and second projections of the first and second retainers.

21. The resilient assembly of claim 20 wherein at least one of the first and second projections of the first retainer overlaps with at least one of the first and second projections of the second retainer.

22. The resilient assembly of claim 19, wherein the first projection has a different length than the second projection.

23. The resilient assembly of claim 13, wherein the first and second retainers are formed from a sheet material.

24. The resilient assembly of claim 23, wherein the sheet material is sheet metal.

25. The resilient assembly of claim 13, wherein the resilient member is one selected from the group consisting of a spring, a tube of resilient material, and a block of resilient material.